

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which reconsideration is requested.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, comprising:

responsive to receiving a caller request to listen only to a remote location telephony device, allocating a listen only channel between a caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device;

activating a microphone at said remote location telephony device via said listen only channel;

streaming audio detected at said microphone via said listen only channel to said caller telephony device, ~~such that said telephone network enables a caller to monitor a remote location through said remote location telephony device with minimized allocation of telephone network resources;~~

responsive to receiving said caller request to listen only to a plurality of remote location telephony devices by rotating said listen only channel among said plurality of remote location telephony devices, monitoring a current time period that said listen only channel is allocated between said caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device;

responsive to said current time period exceeding a rotation time limit, deallocating said listen only channel between said caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device; and

_____ reallocating said listen only channel between said caller telephony device and a next remote location telephony device from among said plurality of remote location telephony devices.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

requesting authorization for said caller to listen only at said remote location telephony device;

responsive to at least one from among said remote location telephony device and a user at said remote location telephony device authorizing a listen only communication, activating said microphone at said remote location telephony device and streaming said audio detected at said microphone to said caller telephony device.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

responsive to receiving said caller request to listen only to [[a]] said plurality of remote location telephony device simultaneously, allocating a separate listen only channel between each of said plurality of remote location telephony devices and said caller telephony device.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

responsive to receiving a caller request to talk only to said remote location telephony device while said listen only channel is allocated, deallocating said listen only channel and allocating a talk only channel.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

responsive to receiving a caller request to end said call, deallocating said listen only channel.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, comprising:

a telephone network for allocating communication channels between a caller telephony device and a remote location telephony device;

said telephone network further comprising:

means, responsive to receiving a caller request to listen only to said remote location telephony device, for allocating a listen only channel between said caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device;

means for activating a microphone at said remote location telephony device via said listen only channel;

means for streaming audio detected at said microphone via said listen only channel to said caller telephony device;

means, responsive to receiving said caller request to listen only to a plurality of remote location telephony devices by rotating said listen only channel among said plurality of remote location telephony devices, for monitoring a current time period that said listen only channel is allocated between said caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device;

means, responsive to said current time period exceeding a rotation time limit, for deallocating said listen only channel between said caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device; and

means for reallocating said listen only channel between said caller telephony device and a next remote location telephony device from among said plurality of remote location telephony devices.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 7 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, said telephone network further comprising:

means for requesting authorization for said caller to listen only at said remote location telephony device;

means, responsive to at least one from among said remote location telephony device and a user at said remote location telephony device authorizing a listen only communication, for activating said microphone at said remote location telephony device and streaming said audio detected at said microphone to said caller telephony device.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 7 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, said telephone network further comprising:

means, responsive to receiving said caller selection to listen only to [[a]] said plurality of remote location telephony device simultaneously, for allocating a separate listen only channel between each of said plurality of remote location telephony devices and said caller telephony device.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 7 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, said telephone network further comprising:

means, responsive to receiving a caller selection to talk only to said remote location telephony device while said listen only channel is allocated, for deallocating said listen only channel and allocating a talk only channel.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 7 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring wherein said telephone network comprises at least one from among a wireless communication network, a public switched telephone network, and an Internet based communication network.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for allocating a listen only channel between a caller telephony device and a remote location telephony device, responsive to receiving a caller request to listen only to said remote location telephony device;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for activating a microphone at said remote location telephony device via said listen only channel;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for streaming audio detected at said microphone via said listen only channel to said caller telephony device;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for monitoring a current time period that said listen only channel is allocated between said caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device, in response to receiving said caller request to listen only to a plurality of remote location telephony devices by rotating said listen only channel among said plurality of remote location telephony devices;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for deallocating said listen only channel between said caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device, in response to said current time period exceeding a rotation time limit; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for reallocating said listen only channel between said caller telephony device and a next remote location telephony device from among said plurality of remote location telephony devices.

14. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 13 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for requesting authorization for said caller to listen only at said remote location telephony device;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for activating said microphone at said remote location telephony device and streaming said audio detected at said microphone to said caller telephony device, in response to at least one from among said remote location telephony device and a user at said remote location telephony device authorizing said listen only communication.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 13 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for allocating a separate listen only channel between each of [[a]] said plurality of remote location telephony devices and said caller telephony device, responsive to receiving said caller request to listen only to said plurality of remote location telephony device simultaneously.

17. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 13 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for deallocating said listen only channel and allocating a talk only channel, in response to receiving a caller request to talk only to said remote location telephony device while said listen only channel is allocated.

18. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 13 for controlling a telephone network for telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for deallocating said listen only channel, responsive to receiving a caller request to end said call.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, comprising:

responsive to detecting a caller selection to listen only to a remote location telephony device, sending a request to a telephone network to allocate a listen only channel between a caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device;

receiving an audio stream from said remote location telephony device at said caller telephony device via said listen only channel while said caller continues to select to listen only to said remote location telephony device, such that a listener is enabled to initiate monitoring said remote location with minimized allocation of resources; and

responsive to detecting said caller selection to listen only to a plurality of remote location telephony devices through a rotating listen only channel, sending said request to said telephone network to allocate a rotating listen only channel between said caller telephony device and a plurality of remote location telephony devices.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

only receiving said audio stream from said remote location telephony device if said caller at said caller telephony device is authorized to listen only to said remote location telephony device.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

detecting said caller selection to listen only to [[a]] said remote location telephony device from a selection of a telephone number previously stored in a database accessible to said caller telephony device as a listen only telephone number.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

detecting said caller selection to listen only to [[a]] said remote location telephony device from a depression of a button designated as a listen only trigger button.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

detecting said caller selection to listen only to [[a]] said plurality of remote location telephony devices simultaneously; and

sending said request to said telephone network to allocate a separate listen only channel between said caller telephony device and each of said plurality of remote location telephony devices.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 19 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, further comprising:

detecting a second selection to end said listen only call; and

sending a request to said telephone network to deallocate said listen only channel.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, comprising:

a caller telephony device communicatively connected to a telephone network;

said caller telephony device further comprising:

means, responsive to detecting a caller selection to listen only to a remote location telephony device, for sending a request to said telephone network to allocate a listen only channel between said caller telephony device and said remote location telephony device;

means for receiving an audio stream from said remote location telephony device at said caller telephony device via said listen only channel while said caller continues to select to listen only to said remote location telephony device; and

means, responsive to detecting said caller selection to listen only to a plurality of remote location telephony devices through a rotating listen only channel, for sending said request to said telephone network to allocate a rotating listen only channel between said caller telephony device and a plurality of remote location telephony devices.

27. (Original) The system according to claim 26 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means for only receiving said audio stream from said remote location telephony device if said caller at said caller telephony device is authorized to listen only to said remote location telephony device.

28. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 26 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means for detecting said caller selection to listen only to [[a]] said remote location telephony device from a selection of a telephone number previously stored in a database accessible to said caller telephony device as a listen only telephone number.

29. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 26 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means for detecting said caller selection to listen only to [[a]] said remote location telephony device from a depression of a button designated as a listen only trigger button.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 26 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means for detecting said caller selection to listen only to ~~[[a]]~~ said plurality of remote location telephony devices simultaneously; and

means for sending said request to said telephone network to allocate a separate listen only channel between said caller telephony device and each of said plurality of remote location telephony devices.

32. (Original) The system according to claim 26 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means for detecting a second selection to end said listen only call; and

means for sending a request to said telephone network to deallocate said listen only channel.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for sending a request to a telephone network to allocate a listen only channel between a caller telephony device and a remote location telephony device, in response to detecting a caller selection to listen only to said remote location telephony device;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving an audio stream from said remote location telephony device at said caller telephony device via said listen only channel while said caller continues to select to listen only to said remote location telephony device; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, responsive to detecting said caller selection to listen only to a plurality of remote location telephony devices through a rotating listen only channel, for sending said request to said telephone network to allocate a rotating listen only channel between said caller telephony device and a plurality of remote location telephony devices.

34. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 33 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only receiving said audio stream from said remote location telephony device if said caller at said caller telephony device is authorized to listen only to said remote location telephony device.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 33 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting said caller selection to listen only to ~~[[a]]~~ said remote location telephony device from a selection of a telephone number previously stored in a database accessible to said caller telephony device as a listen only telephone number.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 33 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting said caller selection to listen only to ~~[[a]]~~ said remote location telephony device from a depression of a button designated as a listen only trigger button.

37. (Canceled).

38. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim 33 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting said caller selection to listen only to [[a]] said plurality of remote location telephony devices simultaneously; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for sending said request to said telephone network to allocate a separate listen only channel between said caller telephony device and each of said plurality of remote location telephony devices.

39. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 33 for enabling caller initiated telephony based remote location monitoring, said caller telephony device further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting a second selection to end said listen only call; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for sending a request to said telephone network to deallocate said listen only channel.

Claims 40-54 (Canceled).